

NEWS FROM ED MARKEY

United States Congress

Massachusetts Seventh District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 27, 2003

CONTACT: Israel Klein

or Colin Crowell

(202) 225-2836

REP. MARKEY AMONG FIRST TO SIGN UP FOR NATIONAL DO-NOT-CALL DATABASE

Consumers Can Register to Halt Unwanted Commercial Telemarketing Starting Today

Washington, DC – U.S. Representative Edward J. Markey, (D-MA), Ranking Democrat on the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, signed up online just after midnight this morning for the new telemarketing “National Do-Not-Call Registry.” This database registry, implemented by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and Federal Communications Commission (FCC), permits consumers to register their home phone number, as well as their mobile phone, and makes them ‘off-limits’ to commercial telemarketers.

“In the wee hours of the morning today I logged on to the FTC website and registered my home phone and cell phone,” Rep. Markey said. “Having successfully battled to authorize this do-not-call database a decade ago, I am thrilled that the day when consumers could use this great tool to combat commercial telemarketing has finally arrived.”

Representative Markey was the primary sponsor of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991, which authorized Federal regulators to implement a national do-not-call database.

“Consumers will soon be able to declare their independence from the nightly ritual of answering nuisance telemarketing calls and today’s announcement is a fine ‘pre-Independence Day present’ to millions of consumers around the country,” Markey added. “FTC Chairman Timothy Muris deserves tremendous for spearheading implementation of this historic pro-consumer initiative.”

Consumers may register online for the database starting today by visiting the FTC website at www.ftc.gov.

In addition to online registrations, consumers residing east of the Mississippi, such as in Massachusetts, will also be able to call a toll-free number to register their personal phone numbers in the database registry starting on July 7th. The FTC will begin enforcement of the database registry with telemarketers starting on October 1st.

#